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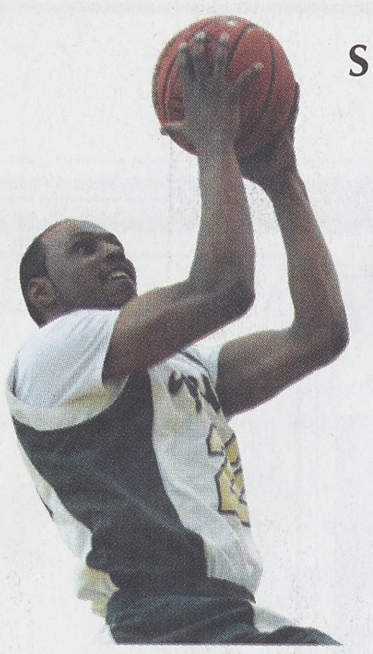

Men's Team Scrape Through To Playoffs

Despite a game loss, Monarch Men's Basketball team stays in the play-offs. For full story..

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
VALLEY STAR
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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ASU Member Admits to Cafeteria Theft

■ **Associated Student Union President Josh Wible remains displeased but quiet, as an executive board member admits stealing coffee from the cafeteria last semester.**

SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

An officer of the Associated Student Union admitted at their first spring meeting on Feb. 17, to stealing coffee from the cafeteria last semester in an act of defiance, over overpricing and lackluster offerings.

Chief Justice Steven Ruiz, who is responsible for investigating inappropriate behavior of the Executive Council, openly shared his transgression with the entire executive board last week.

"I stole coffee all last semester," said Ruiz. Ruiz said he redeemed himself, however, by purchasing items that cost the equivalent of what he took in coffee, even paying three times as much he said.

When asked if he felt his actions were appropriate for a Valley leader and member of the ASU, Ruiz responded, "I do believe it's right."

"I don't consider it stealing, and I cleared my tab" Ruiz said. "This stuff should be provided; the cafeteria should be free [to students]. We work the equivalent of a 16 hour day but don't get paid. It's amazing to me there is such a level of negligence toward students."

An unamused President Josh Wible made a show of turning on the tape recorder as a reminder that sessions were being recorded. However, he did not reprimand Ruiz during last week's meeting. Most ASU members found the confession funny. Vice President Arthur Minasyan came to Ruiz's defense.

"At one point or another he paid for it," said Minasyan. "[Ruiz] might have called it stealing in a joking around way, but to accuse him of stealing isn't fair."

Valley students, for whom the ASU champions, tended to agree with Minyasan. "I definitely don't think it is the most upstanding behaviour of a leadership person," said Micki Boden, a Valley student.

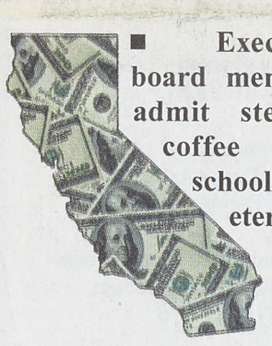
"But it's more about his effort of repaying. If he's a good leader, this incident shouldn't tarnish his reputation."

Ruiz remained intractable in his position of no wrongdoing and has yet to be officially reprimanded. President Wible, unwilling to make any comments on the Ruiz incident, did concede that ASU leaders set an example for Valley and that appearances do matter.

"Regardless of any comments made in the meeting, the actions were inappropriate for anyone in a leadership position," Wible said.

The cafeteria refused to comment.

California Budget Free Of Deadlock



■ **Executive board members admit stealing coffee from school cafeteria.**

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

After three months of deadlock between Republican and Democratic lawmakers, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a new California budget Friday, bringing hope that the state can be bought back from an almost $42 billion deficit.

The budget includes $12.5 billion in tax increases, $15 billion in cuts and $7.8 billion in federal stimulus funds, as reported by the Huffington Post. The state will also experience a one percent sales tax increase, and education spending will be cut by $8.6 billion over two years. Though education

see *Budget* page 2

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A HARDER HAT

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

A construction worker picks a precarious place to take a smoke break, as heavy equipment demolishes the foundation of the Physics and Chemistry Buildings. Work on a new Student Services Building, which will house the business office, counseling and financial aid, among other departments, will begin in April and be completed in 2011.

ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

GRANT FOR COOKIE - Jose and Claudia Miranda sign up for scholarships as they enjoy free cookies and hotdogs in return.

Students Crowd for Financial Aid, Hotdogs, in Monarch Square

■ **Awareness raised during event highlighting the free cash available for Valley students.**

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

The entrance to Monarch Patio buzzed with talk and laughter, as students swarmed the Financial Aid & Scholarship Awareness Event. Information on financial aid and free food gathered together for Valley students. The Los Angeles Community College District hosted the event to promote the Cal Grants and other aid options available.

For the first time at Valley College, Barbara Ralston, Financial Aid director, came up with the event in an attempt to reach out to students in the district to create awareness of the money available. The Academic Faculty Senate, Associated Student Union and Financial Aid Office sponsored the event.

"We've never done anything like this for our students, and it was really important for students to know each individual financial aid program that we offer at valley," said Ralston. "We deliberately set up each table for every single financial aid program that our college offers so students can learn, basically, and ask all the questions they like."

Tables were arranged by categories, including Cal Grant, the Federal Perkins Loan and various scholarship opportunities. Each was filled with fliers and a smiling financial aid technician to answer questions and dole out gifts, including pens, Valley shoelaces and neon bracelets. Students received a free lunch consisting of hot dogs, soda and cookies.

Accounting major, Alex Arenas, came to the event eager for answers and hungry for food.

"I came to get a lot of information that was very necessary, [on] Cal Grants, possibly loans if I didn't qualify for any of the Cal Grants [and] financial aid like FAFSA," said Arenas while holding a ketchup-covered hot dog. "I think this was

see *Financial Aid* page 2

Valley Cuts Classes, Workers Forced to Enroll

■ **The economy continues to cause job and budget cuts and those out-of-work head back to school in the hopes of becoming qualified for employers.**

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

In light of the recent economical downturn, Valley College students like cinema major Matt Young are struggling to make paychecks and are turning to education for hope and a better means of survival.

"It is definitely a factor (the economy)...and (as I) look forward in the current economic climate...it would be helpful to have some more tools in the belt," said Young, who partially baseS his decision to remain in school on the status of the fragile economy.

Companies all over the United States, from corporate giants to mom and pop businesses are slashing jobs. For Valleys' campus, budget cuts are affecting numerous programs, with immediate increase in student enrollment and class size.

The LAVC Enrollment Management Committee reports that the 2008 fall semester carried an 8 percent increase in student enrollment from the past year. Furthermore, the committee projects around a 13 percent spike in enrollment for spring.

"We are trying to serve more students with the same amount of resources," Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Carol Yee stated. "Although we are trying to increase class sizes, we are not trying to put more students in a classroom than a classroom can hold."

Whil the college looks to be as systematic as possible in accommodating students, many are anxious to find the classes they need.

"I feel like I need a little extra something to get a job," student Dorian Bergeron said.

KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
LAST MINUTE - Students look at lists of open and closed classes in Monarch Hall on the first day of the spring semester.

According to the Enrollment Committee, some teachers have lost classes due to cancellations, but not one job has been cut since the beginning of the economic meltdown.

Furthermore, the campus administrators and committees are developing ways to help Valley handle the influx of students on less school funds, despite impending state budget cuts.

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'Budget'

continued from page 1

suffered a monetary blow, Assembly Democrat Wilmer Amina Carter (D-Rialto) said that the new budget will "keep the school districts from having to lay off teachers and the districts will be able to continue their programs for the rest of the year without making any drastic changes."

The California State and University of California systems were dealt a 10 percent funding cut, which will affect all areas of the universities.

Valley College Political Science professor, Anthony O'Regan believes that only time will tell if the budget has saved the state from more dire financial circumstances.

"Long term, the future of all state public services look bleak.," said O'Regan. Expect to see fewer classes, more students, and less support for campus programs for the foreseeable future."

The budget does not have the support of many state Republicans, though it was Senator Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria) who gave the final supporting vote, conditional on California election rule changes. Senate President Pro Tem, Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), expressed relief that the budget had passed, after telling senators to "bring a toothbrush." They werebanned them from leaving the capitol until an answer to the crisis was found.

Friday furloughs for government agencies, like the Department of Motor Vehicles will end, though state workers will still be required to take eight hours of unpaid leave per month. The governor may also be able to repeal the 10,000 pink slips that were sent out to government employees on Tuesday.

Maldonado's proposed election rule change would mean that California would hold open primaries, in which all candidates would compete in the same primary and voters would not be restricted by party affiliation. The top two vote getters will then run off in a second election.

Democrats were opposed to the change, with Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) acknowledging that her caucus appreciates that "we have to do some things we don't like."

O'Regan believes that the open primary theory is better left in theory than practice.

"The open primary should benefit more middle of the road politicians gain office...The reality is that this state is characterized by unusually ideological based Democratic and Republican parties with very strong geographical bases for both," said O'Regan. "If the state changed the process of congressional redistricting then this would help the open primary achieve its goal."

'Financial Aid'

continued from page 1

something very positive to have and the free food didn't hurt."

One of the more crowded tables was the scholarship table where financial-aid technician Daryl Ball answered question after question about finding, applying for, and receiving scholarships both on campus and off. He also handed out fliers for the Los Angeles Valley College Foundation Scholarships, as well as information on databases such as FastWeb.com.

"I've been telling everyone that scholarships are not only merit based, they are interest based," he stated. "They are available to a number of students that aren't really aware they would be eligible for the scholarships... It's a matter of trying to make people aware that there are additional resources besides our federal grants, that students can seek out for additional monies."

ASU Vice President Arthur Minasyan attended the event to get answers for his own questions while nabbing a free lunch.

"We felt like it was a good opportunity to bring awareness to the students because, a lot of times, people know that there's financial aid and people have so many questions," he said. "This way people get to find out their answers and, at the same time, the free food is a definite plus, it does bring them here."

For more information on the aid available, head to the Financial Aid Office located on the tennis courts between the North Gym and the Campus Center.

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ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

thevalleystar@yahoo.com
www.lavalleystar.com
(818) 947-2576

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

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Bipartisanship, Tempestuous Relationship at Best

■ Let's not forget that Obama's presideny is still taking baby steps and that it may be too soon to make any conclusions.

DYLAN CORBETT
STAFF WRITER

On the campaign trail, we heard both Barack Obama and John McCain throwing around the word 'bipartisanship' like confetti at New Years. But now that the race is over, the question stands; has Obama ushered in an age where Republicans and Democrats alike can put their differences aside and actually change? Thus far, he's definitely making an effort.

One thing that really seems to be pushing bipartisanship back is the stubbornness of the Republicans. If they wanted to truly help Obama in achieving his vision they would open their minds a bit more to some of the bills he's lobbying to get passed. Instead they run to the hills screaming as if he's trying to reinvent America as a new socialist Western Europe.

The Republicans say his ideas are moving us more towards socialism - things like universal healthcare and a strong economy. With beliefs like these, it's no wonder why the Republican stronghold is a sinking ship.

There are still accusations that despite all the Republican fuss, Obama is not doing anything with regards to moving toward bipartisanship. However, if this bill had not gone through, America would be spiraling to a point of dangerous poverty. Obama needed his stimulus bill passed in order to save us.

Now that everything is going to plan, it is this writer's opinion that Obama will begin to show a new side of bipartisanship that has not been seen since the Clinton administration.

When considering Obama's successes and failures, we forget that he has been our President for only four weeks. That is not a lot of time to begin to do everything he promised on the campaign trail. If we would just let this post-campaign frenzy relax a little and avoid jumping to judgments too soon, I think we will see all the great things Obama has in store for our country.

■ Has Barack Obama changed American politics from the stubborn partisanship of old to the new bipartisan way?

JOE LAFLEUR
OPINION EDITOR

For the past eight years, the American people grew used to the same simple speeches of our former president George W. Bush. We mocked him – published books with all of his botched lines and dubbed them "Bushisms." This was our way of coming to terms with the fact that our president was, well, not the brightest bulb in the Oval Office.

Then came our new president, Barack Obama, who, much to our surprise could actually speak and he did this well. We were sold on the idea of having a president who could deliver speeches coherently and then find the correct door to exit through when he was finished. Distracted by idealism, we made the mistake of actually believing what a politician was preaching – a change from the old partisan politics to a new bipartisan way.

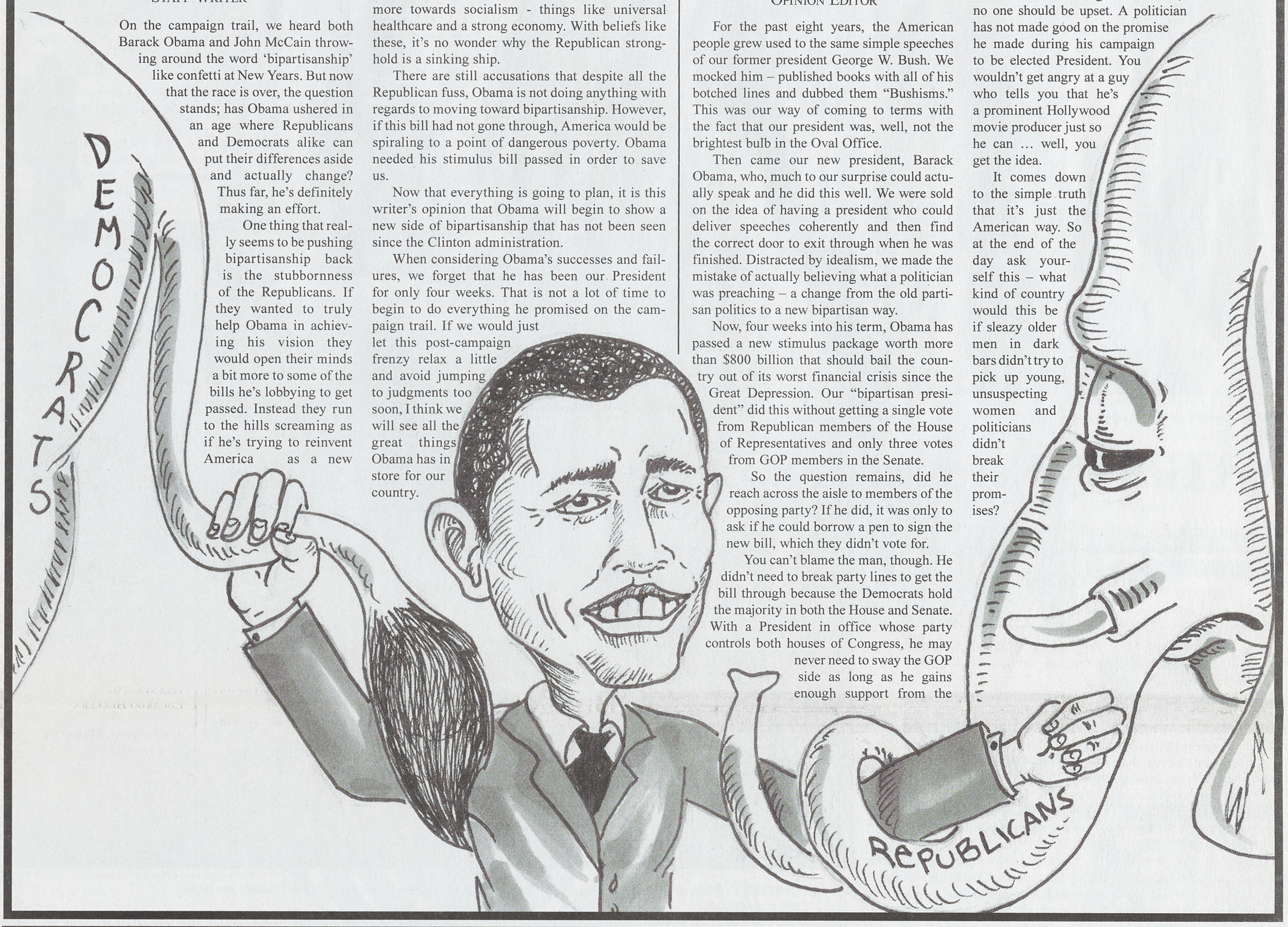
Now, four weeks into his term, Obama has passed a new stimulus package worth more than $800 billion that should bail the country out of its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Our "bipartisan president" did this without getting a single vote from Republican members of the House of Representatives and only three votes from GOP members in the Senate.

So the question remains, did he reach across the aisle to members of the opposing party? If he did, it was only to ask if he could borrow a pen to sign the new bill, which they didn't vote for.

You can't blame the man, though. He didn't need to break party lines to get the bill through because the Democrats hold the majority in both the House and Senate. With a President in office whose party controls both houses of Congress, he may never need to sway the GOP side as long as he gains enough support from the Democrats.

It's not hard to figure out folks, and no one should be upset. A politician has not made good on the promise he made during his campaign to be elected President. You wouldn't get angry at a guy who tells you that he's a prominent Hollywood movie producer just so he can … well, you get the idea.

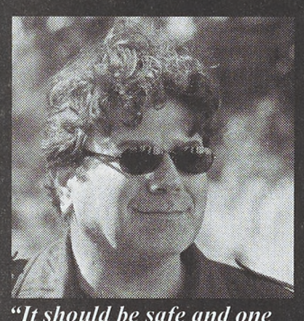
It comes down to the simple truth that it's just the American way. So at the end of the day ask yourself this – what kind of country would this be if sleazy older men in dark bars didn't try to pick up young, unsuspecting women and politicians didn't break their promises?



CAMPUS VIEW:

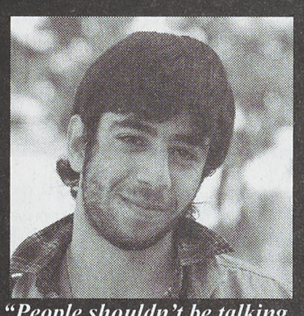
Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo & John Camarena/Valley Star

How far is too far when it come to free speech in the classroom?



"It should be safe and one shouldn't be worried to express their opinion. But, one should be prepared for the consequences."

- Michael Brian
biology



"People shouldn't be talking about their sexual preference in class or girls should not be discussing their religions in the classroom."

- Hyak Matevoskyan
cinema art

"They should be able to say whatever they want, as long as they don't hurt anyones feelings."

- Anna Avetisyan
psychology

"When you persuade people to believe against religion or try to change people's beliefs to your's."

- Jeimy Morales
undecided

The Price Paid for Free Speech

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

Almost every Valley College student will sit in a speech class during their time here and, in that class, they are encouraged to debate their peers and develop independent opinions. It is a given right that we can voice our beliefs in a classroom however, it seems that our First Amendment rights in an educational setting can be stifled by any professor who disagrees with us.

In an incident last November, Los Angeles City College student Jonathan Lopez gave a speech against same sex marriage in a public speaking class, as reported by the Los Angeles Times. The speech, which was given just weeks after the passing of Proposition 8, lead to Lopez being called a 'fascist bastard' by his professor, John Matteson, who also threatened him with expulsion when he complained to the school.

Matteson allegedly told Lopez, a Christian, to "ask God what your grade is", when the student asked for the grade on his speech. Lopez is now suing the Los Angeles Community College District for damages. His lawyers state that their client was discriminated against based on his religious views.

Every American is entitled to freedom of speech, in accordance with the Bill of Rights. There should be no gag tied around the mouths of those who choose to hold different beliefs than yours. We do not have to agree with the sentiments of Lopez to understand how stifling it would feel to be silenced in a classroom. A professor should know their boundaries; as much as they may not like a students' point of view, they should not subject their charge to name calling or threats to academic standing.

While our right to speak our minds is clear, what is not so clear is the line between acceptable and offensive. Common sense often comes into play when a person is in class - we know not to curse, and to obey the rules of the professor. However, we always know what views can be expressed.

We have all been in a situation where one innocently expressed comment has lead to the whole class erupting in an argument. According to the LA Times article, two students in the class were deeply offended by his speech, and believe Lopez "should have to pay some price for preaching hate." We do not know the entire truth of the incident, whether if what Lopez said was truly offensive, or if those who heard it had delicate sensibilities.

Part of our education is being exposed to a variety of ideas, and it is a given that we may not like them all. Students must be allowed to share their ideas with the same freedom that instructors have. After all, free speech isn't so free if only some of us are allowed to have it.

Return of the Brain Dead

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

The majority of students at Valley College want one thing - a simple learning experience with no hassle. Sadly, many of us lack this stress-free experience, as the minority parade their incompetence and dim-witted ways all year long.

With the spring semester firmly under way, students continue to complain about the lack of classes. What doesn't seem to sink in is that enrollment began months ago, with classes readily available during open enrollment days back in December, according to the college website.

"It's not the most responsible of things. I hate to bash on community college, but being here instead of a 4 year institution, no-one takes the initiative."

- Micki Bowden
student

As people pack into the classes they decided to add the day before the semester began, the latecomers seem to think it's fine to stand at the back texting their significant other. It seems that some sort of brain switch is turned on upon their belated arrival, informing them that being late was not quite rude enough.

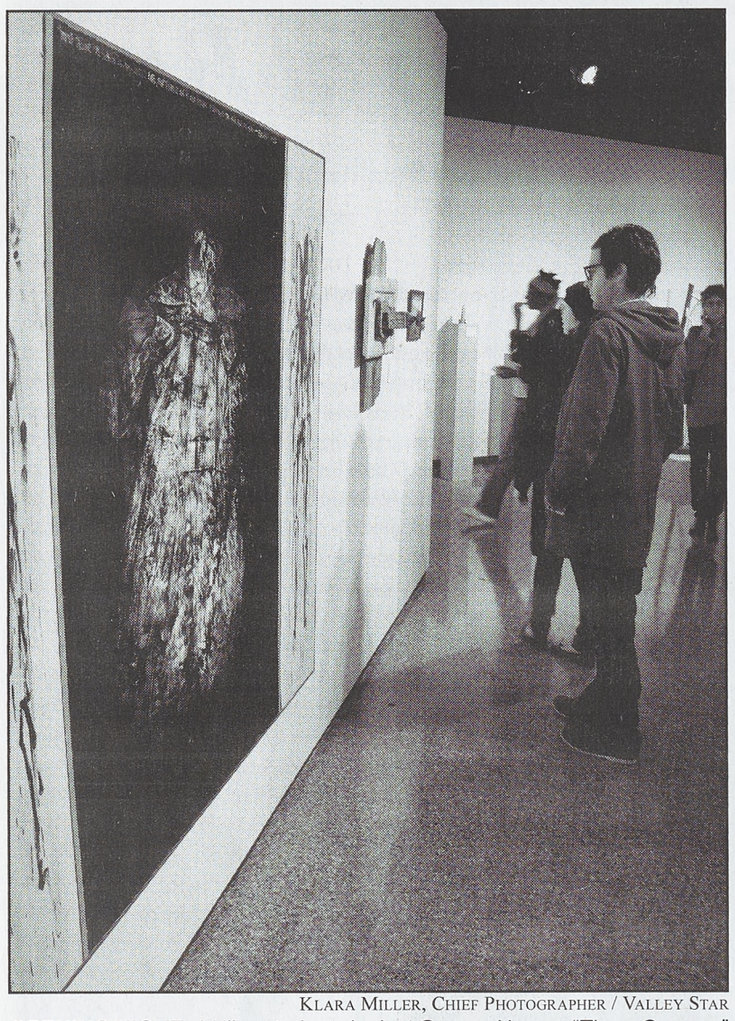
From rude to disgusting; using any public restroom is never the most glamorous of experiences, however at Valley, things turn from uncomfortable to downright nasty.

With your math class over, you may find relief in the fact that you can finally head to the restroom and freshen up. The respite is short-lived, as you arrive in the room to a dirty toilet seat and tissue-stuffed washbowl. According to 'please don't urinate here' signs placed in female restrooms around campus, the girls are unable to relieve themselves correctly (so watch out for splashes).

You may need some fresh air upon leaving the restroom, but Monarch Square, home of dirty benches and the latest campaign for pointless student awareness is not the place to be. Some advice for new students – avoiding this area is advised if you want to remain free of do-gooders' speeches and leaflets, not to mention the latest birth control method being thrown in your face.

We all have to share this campus, hopefully for the shortest amount of time possible. Before your next stupid or disgusting act, take a moment to think about just that. Oh and ladies, please, next time - IN the toilet, not on the floor.

VALLEY LIFE



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

OPENING NIGHT - Valley students look at George Herms, "Three Crosses" artwork.

Art Gallery Revealed

■ The Intuitive Eye Collection give students an opportunity to view artwork without digging in their pockets.

DYLAN CORBETT
STAFF WRITER

You don't need to drive far to find artful expressions, like Diana Zlotnick's collection, when you can just take a short walk to the Art Gallery.

The collection consists of many fine pieces of art by artists ranging from Don Bachardy to the renowned Andy Warhol. Most of the work found in the collection is mid-to-late 20th century art; a time when many amazing new ideas were taking place.

Along the entrance is a plaque describing her ongoing dedication of her collecting artwork.

"I have known many collectors over the years, but none quite like Diana. It is a pleasure to be able to share with others Diana's passionate and intuitive eye," said Dennis Reed, Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts.

Inside are the workings of husband and wife, Michael and Magdalena Frimkess, a beautiful collection of fantastic ceramic pots, highly regarded in the art world. The pots offer an exciting take on art, where the typical household object has been transformed into a piece of beauty.

The Diana Zlotnick portrait of herself by Don Bachardy is a haunting image with clashing blues and browns, leads the viewer to a rough and foreboding painting.

Alongside the beautiful paintings and pottery, you will also find an inspiring sculpture by the artist George Herms known as The Three Crosses. This amazing piece of sculpture uses tree branches to form a whole new idea on how we consider the sculpture. It can be considered by some to be a narrative on how religions are viewed, with a very natural feel coming from the use of mother nature herself as the medium.

If you are an art student, or merely just someone who enjoys a painting every once in awhile, this collection is close and free for all Valley College students to view.

Bruce, a resident, was taking a walk around the campus and encountered the exhibit.

"This is my first time here and I am very pleased with what I see," said Bruce. "This is a very nice place to spend some time."

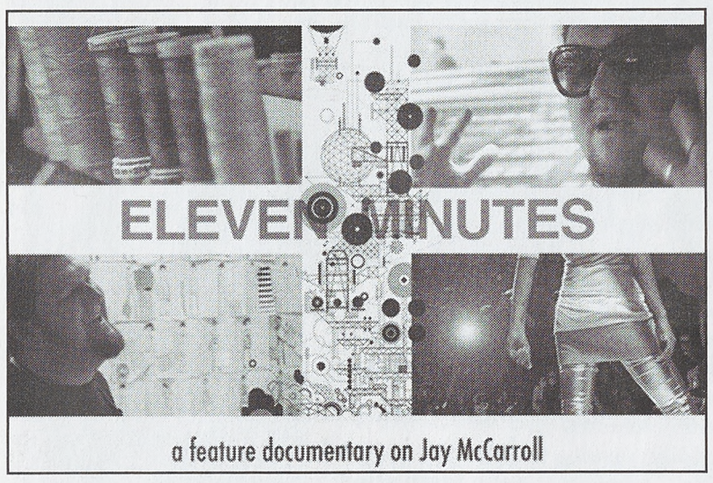
Diana Zlotnick's began collecting various artworks in 1954 and since then has been able to showcase her collection at University of Southern California, Scripts College and Cal State Los Angeles.

Located in the art building, the campus gallery is a convienant distance giving students an easy opportunity to see many works of fine art.

"Very eclectic paintings and ceramics," said Valley student Haywood. "It's definitely eye candy."

KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

ARTFUL EVENING - Visitors gathered for the opening of the Diana Zlotnick Collection at the LAVC Art Gallery last week.



American Idle

■Former Project Runway Winner tries to live past 15 minutes of fame after overdue film release.

JOSH SPENCE
EDITOR AT LARGE

The beauty of Rob Tate's documentary "Eleven Minutes" isn't in the grace and beauty of a runway show, but the unadulterated emotion shown over a year of painstaking, self criticism and doubt for that eleven minutes.

The documentary centers around Jay McCarroll, a budding fashion designer who is immediately pushed into the spotlight of the fashion industry after winning the inaugural season of the reality series "Project Runway." As the expectations for McCaroll's first fashion line is unrealistically high, we see him navigate a label from scratch and make a name for himself.

The cinematography is unflinching and top notch. Tate immediately thrusts you into the world of high fashion that ironically isn't anywhere near the glitz and gloss of runways and snapshots. Full of dirty Chinese sweatshops, posturing agents, and late night melodrama, the camera's first person view gives the audience a visceral effect that makes you feel the pain McCarrroll suffers for his art.

While the film's focus is on the designer and glaringly shows the carnivorous nature of fashion, the documentary makes plenty of commentary on the fleeting face of fame. While the title "Eleven Minutes" is in reference to the duration of a runway show, the title can also double for the amount of time McCarroll was able to cash in on his fifteen minutes of fame.

His purposeful and deliberate decision to distance himself from "Project Runway" and the "America's next great fashion designer" moniker that comes with it is honorable in the attempt to achieve success on his own terms but is also his deathknell. This documentary is sad proof that people participating in reality tv will be forever linked to it good, bad, or indifferent regardless of how hard they try.

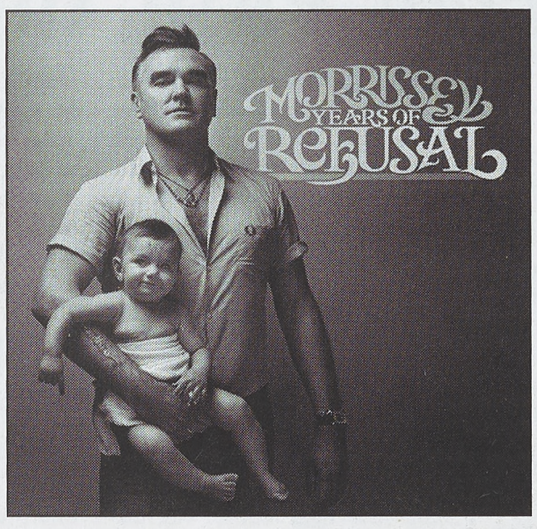
While the film has multiple veneers of what the film's message could be, the one that extends beyond the fans and fashionistas is the sadly common everyman story of someone trying to grab the brass ring of success only to fall drastically short.

Showing in extremely limited release based on the DYI attitude of McCarroll, "Eleven Minutes" is a different and terrific look at an industry way too hyped for its own good.

Big Mouth Strikes Again

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

In a recent New Musical Express magazine article, Morrissey dismissed all rumors of an upcoming Smiths reunion. Although fans remain disappointed for another year, "Years of refusal," shows that Morrissey continues to do fine by himself. The album, edgier than we are used to, remains lyrically personal and won't displease those who are familiar with the Brit icon's usual complaints of an unjust world.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Following the 2006 release of "Ringleader of the Tormentors," the newest edition to Moz's discography opens with "Something Is Squeezing My Skull," a tale of paranoia and prescription medication that many will relate to in the modern age of anti-depressant relief.

Continuing to contemplate life in all its doom and gloom, "Black Cloud" and "Mama Lay Softly On The Riverbed" follow. "Life is nothing much to lose, it's just so lonely here without you," he sings sorrowfully in "Mama," with the backing of powerful drums to make this an intense moment.

A mix of drums and mariachi trumpets come together for a superbly eclectic sound in "When I last Spoke to Carol." Morrissey's love of Mexico has obviously influenced him, which will surely please his Latino fan base.

Producer Jerry Finn, who died shortly after completing the record, according to MTV, created a heavy transformation that works without taking away from the familiar sadness that remains in each song.

The Ballad, "You Were Good In Your Time," is a shot of welcome relief, a tale of lost love. The song is strongly performed and the voice of a legend stays as powerful, although soft for a moment, between an otherwise quite brawny record.

Reaching the ultimate moment of self-pity with "I'm OK By Myself," some things never change as 49-year-old Morrissey exclaims that he still lives happiest in his own company.

Indulging our own insecurities with each heartbreaking, as well as poignant lyric, it is clear that some things never get old, as Morrissey rocks but stays true to his roots (and we love him for it).

Cheers Aloud for Valley

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

Eleven cheerleaders and two yell leaders standing in a row, shout in unison, "Lets Go, Let's Go, We got the ball, so, Let's Go!" After cheering, they fall back into place, hands behind their back, left leg jutted slightly forward with smiles plastered on their faces. Picture perfect, they shine from behind the hoop line, waiting for timeouts and halftime to energize the crowd with dancing, jumps and gymnastic leaps.

In under a year, 30-year-old Rachel Paul, Valley College's new cheerleading coach has taken the cheerleading team and transformed them into a unified group of men and women busting moves from the sidelines. Coming over to Valley after a six-year reign as coach and choreographer of UCLA's Dance Team, she welcomed the challenge of tackling the Monarchs' cheer squad.

"I just thought it would be a good challenge, honestly," said Paul. "I knew that they [Valley's Cheer Sqaud] had a lot of room to grow, and I had done a lot with UCLA in the last six years, so I kinda wanted a new challenge."

Her whole life stems from dance. She started dancing at three years old, carrying over to UCLA where she performed on their dance team, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in dance in 2000. She enrolled in the master's program at Cal State Long Beach, where she met Valley's dance instructor Geordie Wright, who eventually brought her over the hill to the Monarch squad.

Unity is the theme for this cheerleading group, which started with a bumpy year, having a new coach and revolving members. Tryout after tryout and having girls drop the squad, the group has learned to work with each other over the fall semester.

Cheer captain Marissa Marquez, who shares captainship with Nancy Meraz, first met Paul when she was 16 years old during varsity cheer in high school and enjoys continuing their relationship on and off the dance floor.

"Rachel is amazing as a coach … She practically taught me everything that I know about dance, when I was like 16 years old," said Marquez. "She has been a mentor to me and a great teacher."

Since the squad only cheers for the basketball and football teams, Paul is prepping the team for a new avenue in cheerleading: competitions. They will hold continuous try-outs to gain members for the upcoming competitions, which will start in May.

"Your purpose is to cheer for other people, which is great, but it's nice to have something to work on just for you as a team," said Paul. "Even if you go and don't do that well, it's something that brings you together. It's a chance to say look what we did at that time, at that year and then hopefully the next year, you're better."

Lou Grella, the Physical Education Department secretary, occasionally works with Paul professionally, but watches the cheerleaders from the sidelines at games and can definitely notice the difference between pre and post Paul.

"These girls are a lot better than the last one we had," said Grella. "These girls are really working hard, and making it look really good."

Once the squad completes a routine, they return to the sideline and enjoy the moment while grabbing a quick bite to eat. When it's their time to perform, they take their formation while Paul sits in the stands, watching and smiling at her squad. She might have come to Valley for a challenge, but ended up with a family instead.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Pom Pom Pride - Cheerleading coach Rachel Paul smiles and shine as the new coach of Valley's Cheerleading squad.

LAVC EVENTS

Thursday, February 26

The United States Census Bureau will be testing for clerical and field positions in the Faculty Lounge from 1-4 p.m. Jobs range from $12.75/hr to $17/hr. For more information, contact Tony Jaramillo at (818) 778-5832.

The LAVC Student Health Center and the American Red Cross will host a Blood Drive from 9a.m. to 3p.m., with the Bloodmobile parked near the Allied Health and Sciences Center. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome. To make your life-saving appointment, please sign up online at www.give-life.org. Blood donors will receive a coupon for a free appetizer at Mimi's Cafe. For more information, call (818) 947-2918.

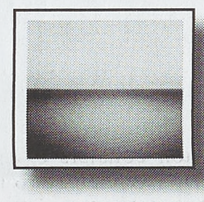
February 18 - March 26

LAVC Art Gallery Presents Intuitive Eye: The Diana Zlotnick Collection. Open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. All events are free to the public. For more information, contact the LAVC Art Gallery at (818) 778-5536.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



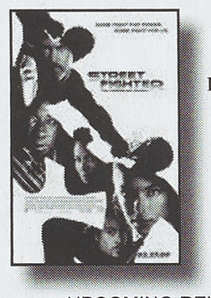
U2, *NO LINE ON THE HORIZON*

OTHER RELEASES:

BX1, *Lights On The Runway*
The Prodigy, *Invaders Must Die*
Joe Buttons, *Padded Room*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



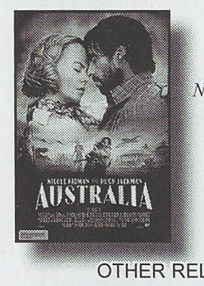
STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN LI

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Crossing Over
An American Affair

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



AUSTRALIA, *Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman*

OTHER RELEASES:

Back to Normandy
Ashes of Time Redux
In the Electric Mist

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Philosophy Club Sets the Tune on Monarch Square

■Monarch Square plays host for ASU's first club day of the spring semester.

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

Celebrating Black History Month the clubs decorated their tables with fliers and pictures, all while playing some music.

Black History month, reserved for every February, is a month to remember and praise the contributions, successes, and tribulations of African Americans throughout the history of the United States.

TRiO Club, a community based club, displays a prominent picture of the first African American presidential family, at their table to honor President Barack Obama, including biographies on the president and other historical figures for Black History.

"We just wanted to get the word out on Michelle, the girls and Obama," said Angiee Lombana, Inter Club Council Rep. "So we have some nice pictures out here and some information about historical black people in the past."

Blaring the tunes of the great Stevie Wonder, the Philosophy Club sold chicken, potato wedges, chips, soda, and Twix, while jamming out and playing some chess.

"Our goal was to get more people aware about our club and to sign people up," said Philosophy Club member, Steve Pargamamik. "We're bumping Stevie Wonder tunes, and selling chicken and potato wedges, which we're notoriously known for."

Child Development Club filled their table with children's picture books on historical figures such as Langston Hughes. They also set up a children's based activity to help support diversity, which will be displayed on the Child Development bulletin located in the Math Science building.

"We have little people of different colored skin," said Peal Newton, president of the Child Development Club. "It would be an activity you would do with a kid. It would teach them that there is all different colors, so they pick the one they feel best represents themselves and decorate themselves."

"Our goal was to get more people aware about our club and to sign people up. We're bumping Stevie Wonder tunes, and selling chicken and potato wedges, which we're notoriously known for. "

- Steve Pargamamik
Philosophy Club

Hillel, The Jewish Interest Club on campus took advantage of the foot traffic to make donations for the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission.

"It's pretty fun," said Alysha Grove, Jewish Peer Intern for Hillel. We've been making peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches and having students make them to donate them to the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission."

Club day is held every other Wednesday, and for more information on any of the above clubs mentioned or ASU, visit Campus Center room 102.

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Thursday, February 26
-UCLA Rep 9am-3pm

-UC Financial Aid Workshop 1pm-2pm FL 102

-Job Shadow Orientation Workshop 1pm-2pm

Friday, February 27-
-Mount St. Mary's College Free bus trip 9am-2pm

All events in Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

Monarch Baseball Strikes Back With First Conference Win

■ **A pitching battle between Valley College and West Los Angeles saw the Monarchs on top with an 3-1 victory.**

HARRY GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

Gray clouds hung over Valley College's Pike Field Saturday afternoon, as if to symbolize the baseball team's gloomy start to the season. The Monarchs were 2-9 overall and 0-1 in the Western State Conference South Division before pulling out an exciting 3-1 victory over West Los Angeles College.

The game began as a pitching dual with West LA's David White trying to keep pace with Valley's AJ Homayun. The Valley hurler struck out the side in the first inning and tallied five strikeouts through a perfect three innings. Homayun finished the game with eight innings pitched, eight strikeouts, and one run allowed.

"I felt like we had to get this win, so I tried my hardest," said Homayun. "If we had lost the game and fell to 0-2 in conference, our season could start spiraling down."

West LA defeated the Monarchs 11-5 on Thursday to give Valley its first conference loss and some added motivation for Saturday's game. The Monarchs began to get their revenge in the third inning. Outfielder Alex Gaudioso led off with a walk and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by outfielder Alex Gast. Third baseman Fabian Loza doubled to leftfield, scoring Gaudioso and giving the Monarchs a 1-0 lead.

"I was struggling a little bit, but my coach came out and calmed me down, and I knew I was better than those guys and I could get it done."

- AJ Homayun
Valley pitcher

West Los Angeles was in position for a big inning in the fifth when their first three batters reached base safely. Valley assistant coach Andy Rodriguez took a trip to the mound to speak to AJ Homayun, and was able to get his pitcher focused. Homayun got a pop-up to third, a strikeout, and a fly out to center to end the inning and the West L.A. rally.

"It felt great. It was one nothing and they were about to tie it up. I knew I had to dig deep," said Homayun. "I was getting a little emotional out there. I was struggling a little bit, but my coach came out and calmed me down, and I knew I was better than those guys and I could get it done."

The score remained 1-0 until the Wildcats tied the game in the top of the seventh when outfielder Ricky Gutierrez tripled in outfielder Eric Scott. Valley squandered a chance to regain the lead in the bottom of the seventh, despite having runners on first and second with no outs, but they capitalized on a similar situation in the bottom of the eighth.

Second baseman Luis Estrada started the eighth inning with a walk and was moved to third following a double by catcher Oscar Soriano. Alex Gast shot a single down the leftfield line to plate two Monarchs for a 3-1 lead. Although he won the game for his team, Gast admits he almost let his teammates down.

"It wasn't a good at bat at first. I was just swinging, trying to do too much," reflected Gast. "I fell behind 1-2 in the count and he threw me his best pitch, his slider, and I just used my hands and got a base hit down the line."

Valley takes on College of the Canyons Thursday and Coach Dave Mallas would like to see the team cut down on mistakes and score more runs.

"Our offense isn't where we would like it right now," he said. "With our offense this year, we need to be able to do the little things. We're just not offensive enough to be able to make mistakes."

COMING UP - BASEBALL

Feb. 26 - at College of the Canyons, 2 p.m.

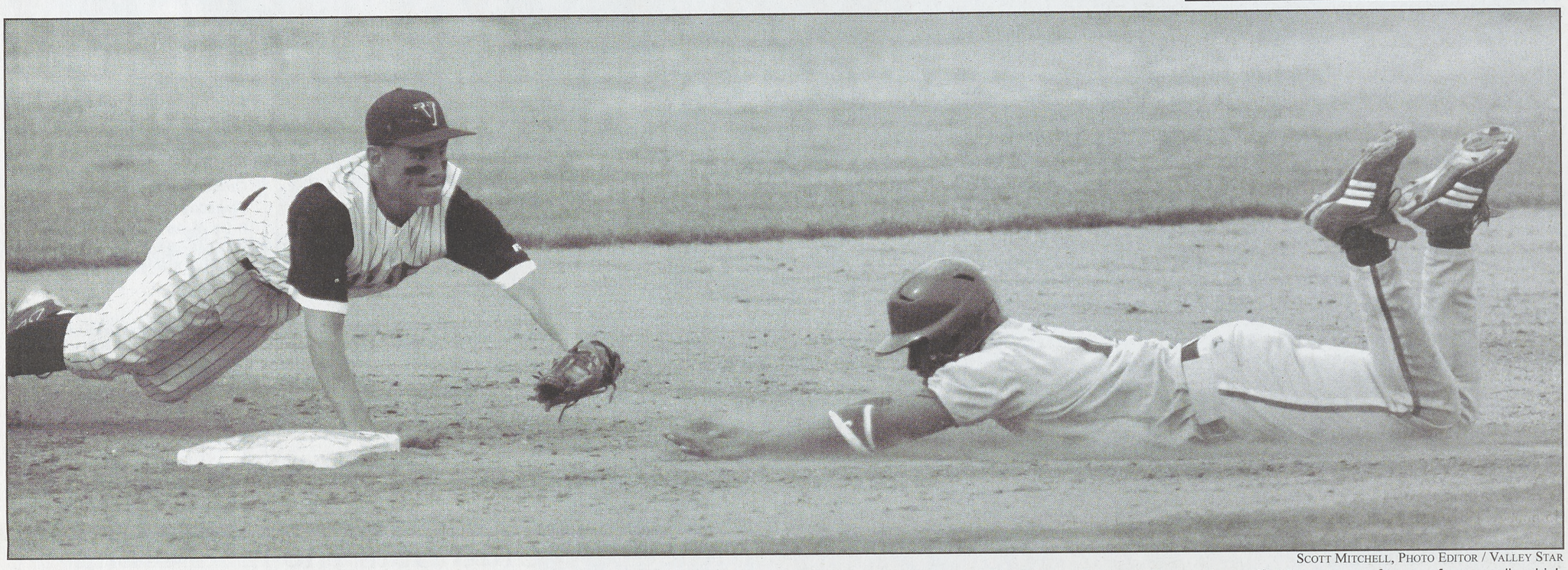
Feb. 28 at Citrus College, 1 p.m.

Mar. 3 vs Citrus College at home, 2 p.m.

Mar. 5 at Pierce College, 2 p.m.

Mar. 7 vs Pierce College at home, 1 p.m.

Mar. 10 at Glendale Colllege, 2.30 p.m.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SLIDE AND DIVE - Valley College second baseman Luis Estrada dives to make the tag on a sliding West Los Angeles College base runner at Pike Field on Saturday. The umpires called the runner safe, one of many calls which met the protest of the Valley dugout. The Monarchs went on to win their home game 3-1, their first conference win of the season. The men take on College of the Canyons on Thursday.

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Monarchs Advance Despite Loss

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITER

With the playoff race heating up for the men and the end of a long season for the women at hand, the Valley College basketball teams took the floor Feb. 18 for Sophomore Appreciation Night.

The first game saw the Monarch men take on West Los Angeles College in a battle of teams trying to solidify their playoff position. The Monarchs had a clear path to the playoffs, with a win against the Wildcats after two key wins the week before.

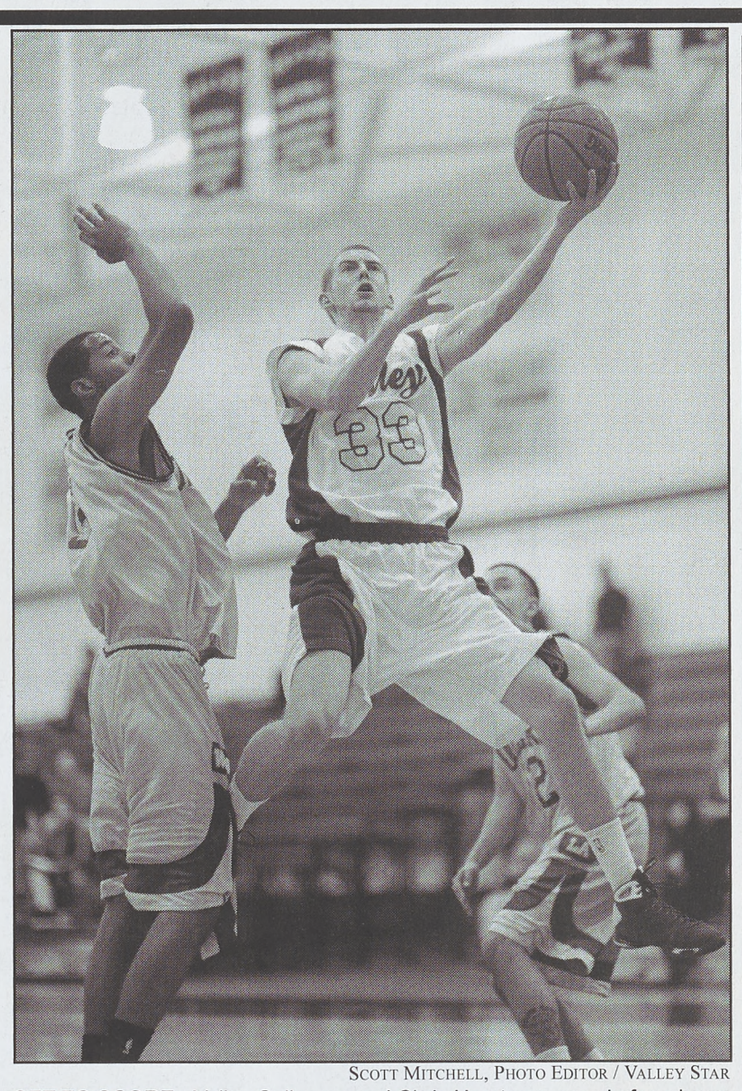
Unfortunately, the team was unable to match those performances and fell 68-62 in a game where the Monarchs held the lead for less than a minute in the first half.

Despite the loss, the team was selected for a playoff berth and will host a "play-in" game at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night against the Cerritos College Falcons for the right to travel to Saddleback College Saturday night.

"We have been in playoff mode for the last three games," said Coach Virgil Watson. "We lost this last one and in the playoffs we won't have that luxury. We won't be able to afford the mistakes like in [Wednesday's] game."

The Wildcats took the lead Wednesday just after the tipoff and the teams traded baskets for the first 15 minutes. Going into halftime, the Wildcats were able to stage a late push, taking a four point lead to the locker room. Momentum and intensity were with the Wildcats during the opening 6 minutes of the 2nd period when they went on a 12-2 run, putting the Monarchs behind 45-31.

Valley started putting full-court pressure on West LA and, through the effort of players Chris Horstman, Jerome Lowe, Curtis Leslie, and Robert Brown, the Monarchs were able to pull within 3 points at the 1:16 mark.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SET TO SCORE - Valley College guard Chris Horstman goes in for a layup against West Los Angeles College in the final game of the regular season.

"They [West LA] played hard, and we didn't match their intensity," said Coach Virgil Watson the day after the game. "You have to finish the game, and for whatever reason, we couldn't."

The Monarchs missed several key shots and free throws down the stretch and were unable to complete what could have been a stirring comeback.

WLAC center Shakir Johnsn blocked many of Valley's shots and dominated the boards.

"He [Johnson] was big for us defensively," said West LA Coach Ernie. "Without his defensive effort, we could not have held Valley to 60 points and they average about 80 per game."

The second game saw the Lady Monarchs also face West LA in the final game of an injury-marred season. Valley fell behind 22-7 after the first 10 minutes and never recovered, losing 67-45. The Monarch defense had no answer for the long-range shooting of the Lady Wildcats and looked disorganized on the offensive end.

"We've had a lot of injuries, but I don't want to blame the injuries on why we're not successful," said frustrated Valley Coach Ruth Seja. "...It's been difficult because we don't have the athletes that can get away with not following instruction."

The women's season is over, and the men will play at least one more game this season. It's time for both teams to move on to the future and improve upon last Wednesday's performances.

It's All Business for Football Trainer

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Athletic Trainer Angelo Cimity is rough around the edges. He is hard-nosed, all business, all the time. He wears a green Valley baseball cap on campus every day and has been doing so for 31 years of his life. He is serious about his work and often appears undeterred by any injury or conflict. There are many things students may not know about Cimity, but they should know that his stern, often harsh personality reflects the concern he has for his athletes.

By the age of twelve, Cimity had already lost his father, but not before he had instilled a distinct desire to become an athlete in the young boy.

"For me...I was raised to be an athlete," Cimity said. He went on to play football in middle school and high school for five years before ultimately getting an offer to play for Southern Illinois University.

Obsessed with the game, his only focus became football.

"That's all I did, I didn't learn to work on cars or any of that stuff ...I just played football," Cimity said. Unfortunately, due to the five years Cimity had played, he developed an arthritic condition in his ankles, which prevented him from passing the physical required to play at the college level. In an instant, his plans for the future changed. Little did he know the changes would soon become more drastic.

With higher hopes, he took a chance and moved to California in 1978, where he attended Valley College for two years. During his time at Valley, Cimity decided on his life's work, majoring in physical education with a minor on athletic training.

"In my eyes, I could help prevent what happened to me, from happening to someone else," he said. Excelling rapidly at Valley, the school offered him a student athletic-training position.

In 1980, Cimity received hands-on training at the Southern California Orthopedic Institute and eventually took the position at Valley while continuing his education. In 1980, he left Valley and transferred to Cal State University Northridge, graduating in physical education. Though he left Valley to attend CSUN, Cimity never left his position as student trainer.

"I always thought this would be a great place to work," Cimity said.

When he finished his schooling, Cimity could no longer be a student trainer, so in 1986 he applied for and was officially appointed to the position of athletic trainer for the school.

"I just never realized how the luck of the draw was when I was asked to come back," he said.

Cimity plans on remaining in his position until he retires. He is now president of the Los Angeles Community College District of Athletic Trainers and is highly respected in his field.

"In my eyes, I could help prevent what happened to me, from happening to someone else."

- Angelo Cimity
Valley Athletic Trainer

"He's all business, serious and a fine administrator, but between the lines he wants to help the kids," said Dennis Mestas, a colleague and friend.

Unyielding and misunderstood at times, Angelo says everything he does is because he cares. His words are chosen carefully and each serves an exact purpose, as do his actions. He willfully takes on the strict therapy and guidance of those athletes who are ready to work, with the intent of preparing them.

"Yeah I may be a little hard, it's just the fact that we care, and want to see people succeed," he said.

SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

HERE TO MAKE YOU BETTER - Athletic trainer Angelo Cimity takes a break from helping athletes with sprains and injuries.

Los Angeles Valley College
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Time: 9am — 3pm
Place: Monarch Hall

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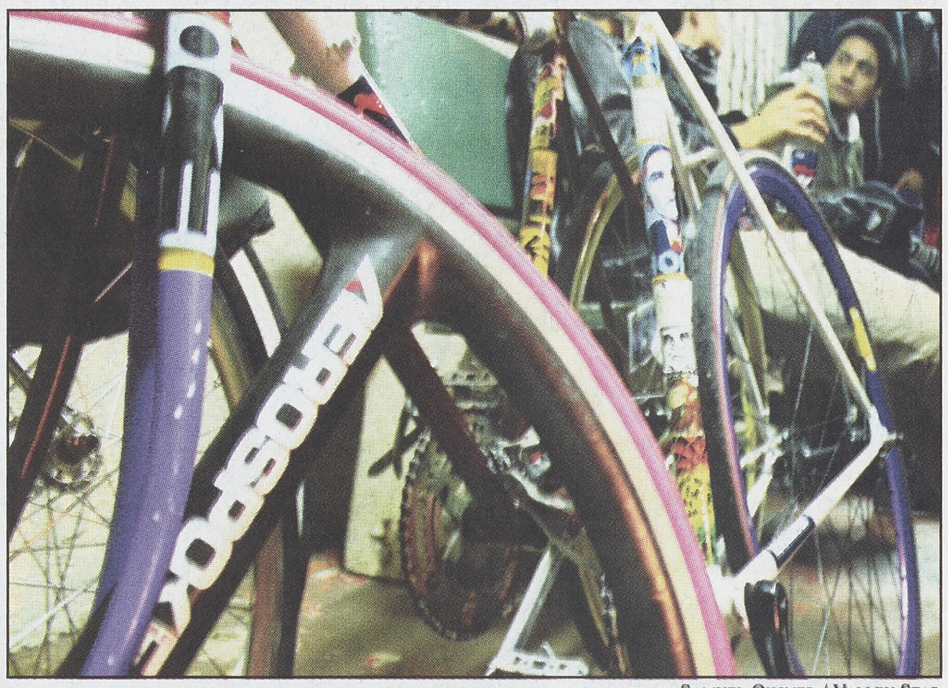
SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

RIDING THROUGH THE NIGHT - Midnight Riders speed towards the "Bicycle Wharehouse" for their second break of the night.



SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

READY TO RIDE - Riders personalize their bikes with stickers and paint jobs.

Two Wheeled Counterculture

SAMUEL OKSNER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Five years ago, eight bicycle riders got together on the second Friday of every month for a night of fun in the streets to LA. The group grew from the original eight to today's more than 1300 riders in just a few years.

Originally organized by Skull with Mabell and Muff, organization is now done through the web site midnightridazz.com now, anyone can orgnanize a ride using the forums. Rides have expanded from being a twice a month event to almost every day of the week in several parts of the city.

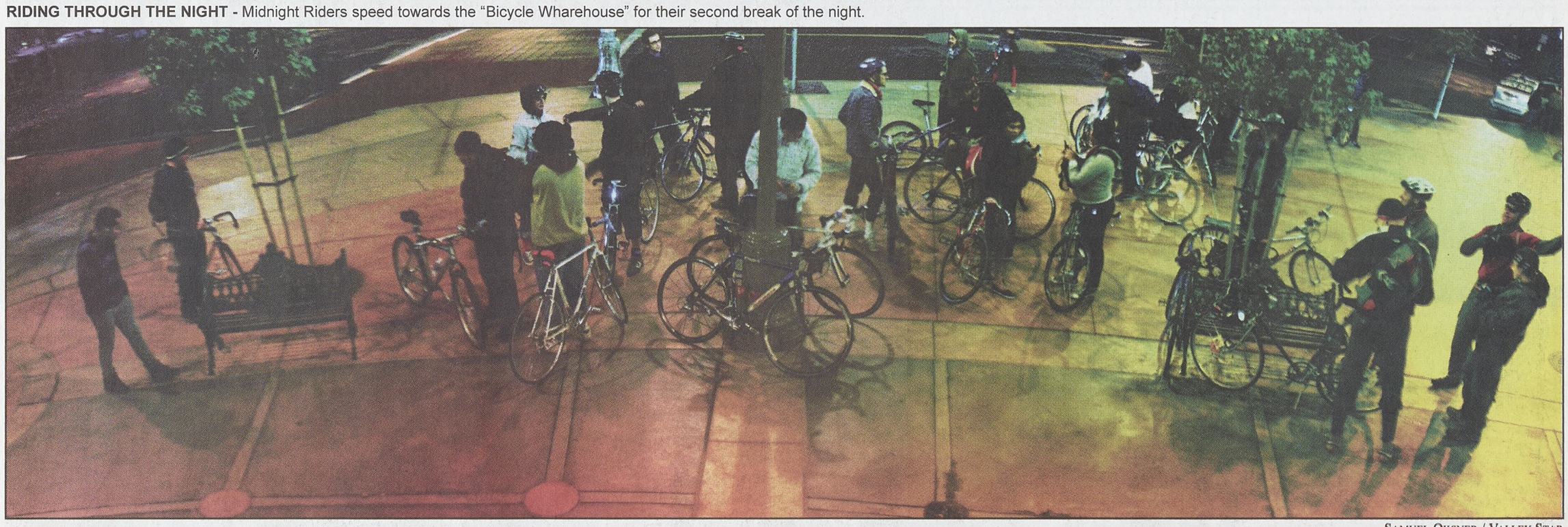
The enthusiastic mood of these rides is encouraged by the music and the drinking that accompanies the parade of nightriders. People will share a beer on a cold night or help each other with flat tires.

On a recent 20-mile bike ride starting at Echo Park and proceeding going through downtown L.A. with many stops on the way. Riders stop to relax and have a good time, and on this particular night the midnight ridazz were celebrating five years of fun and were stopping at some of the places that have been a part of the community and the history of Midnight Ridazz.

The night is filled with camaraderie, and although the riders try to be safe, blasting through downtown L.A. interssections on a red light can quickly turn for the worse, as it did on a recent rie where a rider hit a car that was making a right turn.Riders are always looking out for each other, pointing out potholes and cracks in the road to each other.

Rides vary greatly depending on the organizer, the route and the people attending. While some rides have themes, others may have an emphasis on the course or some might be slightly more race oriented.

Recently, the riders were in the news for riding two exits on the I-10 freeway during rush hour as a statement regarding the overuse of cars causing congestion. They could be seen swerving through traffic and beating cars to the 405 intersection.



SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

TAKING A BREAK - Midnight Riders take a break at Mariachi Plaza on their way to downtown LA

ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

MONDAY NIGHT 6 PACK - Matt Simmons, Midnight Ridazz writing member's names for upcoming events before a 15 mile bike ride.

SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

WAITING FOR THE LIGHTS - Riders wait at the lights as they head back to Echo Park via Sunset Blvd.